



## Horsmonden Primary School

### Back Lane, Horsmonden, Kent TN12 8NJ

Tel: 01892 722529 Fax: 01892 724134

Email: [headteacher@horsmonden.kent.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@horsmonden.kent.sch.uk)

Website: [www.horsmonden.kent.sch.uk](http://www.horsmonden.kent.sch.uk)

Headmaster:

Mr Malcolm E. Hayes

16<sup>th</sup> January 2009

Dear Parents,

Next Thursday is, apparently, the most miserable day of the year. It's the day when our credit card bills bring us back to the reality of post-Christmas and the doom and gloom of the weather sinks our spirits to an all-year low. So, allow us to spread a little light in your lives with what's happening in school. On the computer screen in the entrance hall there's a lovely slide show of the school last week in the deep frost that ameliorated our school grounds. Going up on the wall in the hall are examples of children's work that came out of walking round the school and appreciating what we have. As is often the case, the lessons that were prompted by an unusual event produced some wonderful examples of children's learning, so do take the time to see what's on the wall.

Accompanying this letter is a timetable of what happens **out of hours** in the school building. There's a great deal going on for the whole community which means the building takes quite a battering, but we believe it's all part of adding value to the village. There are two new opportunities after half term for children as part of Extra Hours Club and one starting next week.

**Infant Art Club** is an opportunity for infants to explore different media in a relaxed setting. Nicola Rendell-Jones has very kindly volunteered to run the club on Thursdays from 3:30 – 4:30 and there will be a cost of £5 to cover expenses on materials up to Easter. There's a limit on numbers and it is only for infants, so if you would like your child to participate get their name to Mrs Hickman (Year 3) who is administering the list.

Also for infants, but starting after the mid-term break, is **Yogabugs**, "A fun and creative activity that stimulates children's imagination and improves their flexibility". There are some information cards on the 'School and Community' noticeboard in the front entrance hall and this will be run within the Extra-Hours Club. As there is a limit on numbers, for a fixed fee of £4.50 per session (3.20 – 4.30), your child will have 30 minutes of Yogabugs activity and 30 minutes of Extra Hours Club. If you are interested, pick up one of the leaflets and make your booking through Margaret Wood via email or the school office. At the time of writing I have yet to receive confirmation of whether it will take place on a Monday or Tuesday, so watch the board or your E-letter mailings.

Also running within Extra Hours Club will be **New Age Curling** for the sport of curling. I'm not quite sure why this particular sport has decided to declare independence from the Oxford English Dictionary, but if it's new age I guess that's enough justification. Along similar lines, for the standard fee of £3.50 per , your child will get 20 minutes curling and 40 minutes in Extra Hours Club on a Thursday afternoon. Once again this starts after the mid-term break and bookings should be made through Margaret Wood. Mr Brown and Miss Hudson will be team coaches and we will be looking to run a school team in local competitions in the future.

Don't forget the **Friends of Horsmonden Primary School (FoHPS) AGM** starting at 7 p.m. on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January. As well as being a vital opportunity to thank the committee. It will be your first opportunity to see the completed refurbishment of the cookery area and children's library. You will also be able to hear of the projects coming up in the next few months that will continue to transform the school building to the benefit of your children. Nominations are welcome for the (FoHPS) committee in advance or on the evening of the AGM. At least 3 places on the committee are available, with scope for more. Participation in the FoHPS Committee is a great way to contribute to the life of the school community. Nomination forms are available from the FoHPS notice board at the entrance corridor outside Year 3.

Those of you who looked on KCC holiday list previously may have spotted the two final lists of dates for the September start that showed different start dates for the same term. I can confirm that the start of autumn term 2009 will be Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. I will endeavour to put the year dates on the website during the course of next week to assist your holiday planning.

Don't forget **Bring Your Dad to School Day** on 4<sup>th</sup> February. I've got a list of dads who wish to stay on after the morning in school and it's really helpful to know well in advance so that we can ensure you get your fair share of the feast on the day. There's no need to pay up front; you can settle up on the day for both the meal and the bar bill, which may well be run up over lunch!

And so (in my Jerry Springer conclusion) we look forward to national misery day with a cheery smile and the knowledge that when the credit card bills arrive we did it for the children and we've got 11 months to pay it off before we do it again!

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm E. Hayes  
Headmaster

Attachments: FoHPS newsletter (paper only)  
Quest Club letter (Years 5 and 6 only)  
Out of hours activities timetable